

Pilot Project Brings Regional Bus Service to Green Valley and Sahuarita

Bus service between Green Valley-Sahuarita and Tucson is scheduled to start on February 6, 2006. Two morning and two afternoon trips will provide residents of the Green Valley-Sahuarita area an alternative to driving to Tucson for employment, shopping and medical services. Connector service will be available between 6 a. m. and 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. and 6 p.m. for travel to Tucson via the Nogales Highway. Sun Tran will provide connecting service at the Roy Laos Transit Center (6th Avenue/Irvington). There will be no charge for the service through February 28. On March 1 the fare for a one-way trip will be \$2.00.

Limited local circulator service will be available in Green Valley and Sahuarita between 9 a. m. and 3 p. m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The service will operate on a schedule and a fixed route and will stop at intersections along the route when flagged down by riders. The bus will deviate from the route as time allows to pick up riders unable to get to a stop. Riders may call 888-2996 twenty-four hours in advance to request a home pickup. Midday service to Tucson will be provided on Wednesday only from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m. for medical and shopping trips. Advance reservations are required for this service. Both services will be free until March 1.

The Green Valley-Sahuarita Connector Service is a pilot project sponsored by the Public Transportation Division of the Arizona Department of Transportation and is funded for three years. Similar service was started between Ajo-Gila Bend and Phoenix last year, with plans underway for service in the Yuma and Flagstaff areas. Pima County Rural Transit will manage the service along with the services currently provided to other Pima County residents in Ajo, Marana, South Tucson, and San Xavier. American Pony Express will operate the service under contract to the County. Brochures including stop locations and service times are available for both the regional connector and local circulator routes and can be obtained by contacting American Pony Express at 888-2996 or Pima County Rural Transit at 740-6398. Route information may also be found at www.dot.pima.gov/transsys/bus.



Ribbon cutting ceremony in Green Valley commemorating the start of the Green Valley/Sahuarita to Tucson Connector service.